Memorandum from Tamil Nadu handloom weavers

112. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers;

(b) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu holds a stock of Rs. 53.34 crores with Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and Rs. 90 crores with Co-optex, and

(c) what steps Government have taken to give assist the handloom weavers to dispose of their stocks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. According to the State Government, Tamil Nadu holds a stock of Rs. 37.61 crores with Primaries and Rs 78.03 crores with Co-optex.

(c) A special rebate of 20 per cent to be shared equally between the Centre and State Government is offered on retail sales of handloom fabrics marketed by the Handloom Cooperative Societies and the Handloom Development Corporations. In addition, the special rebate is also available for sales effected in National level Exhibitions, approved and organised by the Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms. The Government of Tamil Nadu is stepping up its marketing efforts to clear the accumulated stocks.

Trade imbalances with E.E.C.

113. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged the EEC to end trade imbalances; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. This matter was also discussed at the fourth session of the Indo-EEC Joint Commission held in Brussels in January, 1987.

(b) The EEC shared India's concern at the growing trade deficit and recognised the need to take measures for bringing down the trade gap, including an expanded and integrated trade promotion programme to be undertaken and greater flexibility in the various administrative procedures and regulations affecting India's trade vis-a-vis the European Communities.

U.S. air bases in Baluchistan

114. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 14th December, 1986 captioned "U.S. airbases' chain in Baluchistan"; if so, what are the details thereof

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with the U.S. Government with a view to reducing tension in the region;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken up in no uncertain terms aspects of U.S. security assistance to Pakistan that have a bearing on India's securiy.